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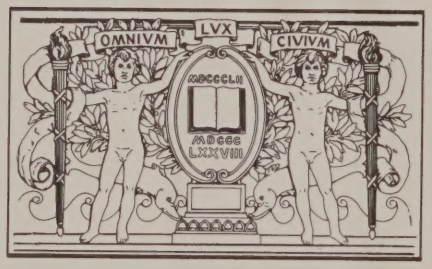

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ESTIMATES OF THE MINORITY AND NON-MINORITY POPULATION OF BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOODS IN 1976

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Current estimates of the population in Boston and its neighborhoods are a necessary component of any planning effort for the City. To meet this need for updated population information, this report provides estimates of total, white, and minority populations of Boston and its neighborhoods for October 1976. Minority or non-minority status is determined from the categories of the Boston School Department. The minority category includes Blacks, American Indians, Orientals, Other Specified Races, and Hispanics. The White category includes white persons who speak English as their primary language.

Results

The total population of Boston is estimated to be 638,735 persons in 1976. Table 1 shows that 466,246 (73%) are white and 172,489 (27%) are members of minority groups. The distribution of white and minority persons by neighborhood is also shown in Table 1. The largest numbers of whites are found in South Dorchester (61,000) and Allston-Brighton (59,000) followed by East Boston, South Boston, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and Jamaica Plain. The neighborhoods with the largest numbers of minority group members are Roxbury (58,000) and Mattapan (36,000), then the South End, Jamaica Plain, and South Dorchester,

followed by North Dorchester, Allston-Brighton, and Fenway-Kenmore. The ordering of neighborhoods by percent white and minority is slightly different because of the varying sizes of the neighborhoods. The highest percentages of whites are found in West Roxbury, Charlestown, East Boston, and South Boston with 98 percent or higher, followed closely by Hyde Park, Back Bay, and Roslindale with 94-95 percent. Minorities form a large percentage of the total population in Roxbury (93%), Mattapan (77%), and the South End (68%), followed by Jamaica Plain, North Dorchester, and Fenway-Kenmore.

The changes that have occurred in the total, minority and non-minority population of Boston and its neighborhoods are indicated in Table 2. Between 1970 and 1976, it is estimated that Boston's total population remained stable, with a negligible 0.2% decline. However, individual neighborhoods showed more variability. Significant gains over the 1970 population totals were shown by the Central, Charlestown, Back Bay and South End neighborhoods, while Roslindale and Roxbury experienced substantial losses.

The City lost about eight percent of its 1970 white population by 1976. This represents a 25 percent decrease in the annual loss rate of whites compared to the 1950-60 and 1960-70 decades. Larger percentage losses of whites

have occurred in Roxbury, Mattapan, North Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and the South End neighborhoods. On the other hand, the Central, Charlestown, and Back Bay areas have shown a substantial percent increase in whites since 1970.

The citywide minority population has grown by some 29 percent since 1970. It is impossible to develop comparable figures for all minorities for the 1950-60 and 1960-70 decades because U.S. Census information was not recorded for Hispanics in the way that it is now. Nonetheless, the number of non-whites grew about 70 percent in each of the last two decades. Therefore, a 29 percent increase probably reflects a considerable decline in the rate of increase of minorities since 1970. The neighborhoods with larger percentage gains in minorities than Boston as a whole between 1970 and 1976 are Hyde Park, Allston-Brighton, Mattapan, North Dorchester, Fenway-Kenmore, Jamaica Plain, and Central. Some of the neighborhoods with large percentage gains grew by relatively small numbers because there were few minority group members living there. When neighborhoods are ordered by the largest increases in numbers of minority persons, Mattapan showed the largest increase (about 16,000), followed by Jamaica Plain, North Dorchester, and Allston-Brighton (about 4,000), then by the South End, Fenway-Kenmore, North Dorchester, and South Dorchester.

Changes in the minority--non-minority composition of the various neighborhoods have occurred that are different from the trends in Boston as a whole. The trends in individual neighborhood composition are corroborated by other sources of information on ethnic composition. Table 4 shows the percentage of the neighborhood population formed by Non-whites and Hispanics according to the 1970 U.S. Census. Reading the columns from right to left, the 1970 Census percents can be compared with 1973 Non-whites estimates, 1976 minority estimates, and 1977 estimates of Blacks, Hispanics, and Chinese from the Hart Survey. Some discrepancies are evident. They probably result in most part from the different definitions of non-white and minority documented in the table footnotes. In general, however, they support the findings of a slowing growth in Boston's minority population, with considerable growth in some neighborhoods and stability in others.

Methodology

The principal data source for these estimates of whites and minorities were the October 1976 enrollments in primary grades of school children living in Boston. These enrollment figures included children in grades 1-8 who attended either a public or a parochial school. Children enrolled in private

schools and in the METCO program were not included because information about their neighborhood of residence was not available.

The basic estimating technique is to apply the ratio of primary enrollments to persons of all ages, counted by the U.S. Census, in 1970 to the 1976 enrollments to estimate the persons of all ages in 1976. The technique is a standard one. Fundamentally, it assumes that in a fairly stable population, the ratios developed in one year can be applied in another year to estimate total population in the same geographic area.

However, Boston's neighborhoods since 1970 have not been stable with regard to the ratio of young school children enrolled to total persons in ethnic categories. A number of factors have contributed to this changing situation. First, there has been a nationwide decline in the numbers of young children relative to the total population because the birth rates and numbers of births annually have decreased steadily since approximately 1960. This means that in Boston, as well as across the nation, the ratios of school children to total population were lower in 1976 than in 1970. Moreover, the fertility decline has proceeded at different rates for different ethnic groups. Therefore, the ratios will have declined by different amounts for different ethnic groups.

Secondly, the age structure of individual Boston neighborhoods has shifted apart from the national trends mentioned above. Migration between neighborhoods within the City and between the City and elsewhere has brought relatively more children to some areas and relatively fewer to others. Therefore, the individual neighborhood ratios have shifted in different ways over time.

Thirdly, it is difficult to monitor shifts of children between Boston's public and parochial schools and other schools, including private, METCO, and schools located outside the City. In 1972, the private school and METCO enrollees formed about six percent of the primary school population. Their numbers and distribution throughout the City were such that they did not affect the accuracy of the estimating technique. However, the situation may have changed since 1972.

Lastly, there is a problem in using 1970 ratios because the ethnic categories used then by the Boston School Department were White and Non-white. Non-white was not broken down into racial groups and there was no Hispanic category. Hispanic students were simply designated White or Non-white by school administrators. These changing minority or ethnic categories also make the use of 1970 ratios problematical.

Adjustments to the 1970 ratios were made to compensate for these factors. The neighborhood ratios were first adjusted for the decline in births in Boston between 1957-1964 and 1963-1970 which would have produced the children in grades 1-8 in 1970 and in 1976.

Recent indicators of the number and ethnic makeup of Boston's population were used to compensate for the other three factors. The State Census of 1975 counted 637,000 persons in Boston. The State Census counts for wards can be used to approximate the total populations of neighborhoods. The Hart Poll taken in early 1977 gives a somewhat different overall population for Boston. However, it is useful in that it provides some estimates of ethnic populations in Boston's neighborhoods. BRA planners for the individual neighborhoods reviewed the preliminary estimates. Revisions were made when their knowledge of the neighborhood indicated that the school enrollment-based estimates were inaccurate.

Table 1

TOTAL, WHITE, AND MINORITY POPULATION ESTIMATES OF BOSTON AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS FOR OCTOBER 1976

Neighborhoods[2]	Total Number	Non-Minority		Minority[1]	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Boston	638,735	466,246	73.0	172,489	27.0
East Boston	38,275	37,574	98.2	701	1.8
Charlestown	17,074	16,823	98.5	251	1.5
South Boston	38,123	37,302	97.8	821	2.2
Central	23,884	21,048	88.1	2,836	11.9
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	30,433	28,946	95.1	1,487	4.9
South End	25,098	8,090	32.2	17,008	67.8
Fenway/Kenmore	34,642	27,832	80.3	6,810	19.7
Allston/Brighton	67,427	58,938	87.4	8,489	12.6
Jamaica Plain	45,411	30,471	67.1	14,940	32.9
Roxbury	62,830	4,660	7.4	58,170	92.6
No. Dorchester	31,774	22,121	69.6	9,653	30.4
So. Dorchester	71,914	60,765	84.5	11,149	15.5
Roslindale	33,211	31,327	94.3	1,884	5.7
West Roxbury	35,314	34,955	99.0	359	1.0
Hyde Park	36,150	34,497	95.4	1,653	4.6
Mattapan	47,175	10,897	23.1	36,278	76.9

[1] Minority includes Blacks, American Indians, Orientals, Other Specified Races, and Hispanics.

[2] Neighborhoods are BRA Planning Districts used between 1970 and 1976.

Table 2

COMPARISON OF 1970 AND 1976 MINORITY AND NON-MINORITY POPULATIONS

	1970						1976		
	(1) Total[2]	(2) White	(3) Non-White	(4) Spanish-Speaking	Non-Minority (2)-(4)	Minority (3)+(4)	Total	Non-minority	Minority
Boston[1]	641,071	524,588	116,334	17,971	506,617	134,305			
All Neighborhoods	639,803	523,581	116,073	17,940	505,641	134,013	638,735	466,246	172,489
East Boston	38,873	38,425	442	617	37,808	1,059	38,275	37,574	701
Charlestown	15,353	15,130	219	46	15,084	265	17,074	16,823	251
South Boston	38,488	37,798	673	276	37,522	949	38,123	37,302	821
Central	19,334	17,563	1,751	324	17,239	2,075	23,884	21,048	2,836
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	27,538	26,464	1,067	333	26,131	1,400	30,433	28,946	1,487
South End	22,680	10,714	11,949	1,641	9,073	13,590	25,098	8,090	17,008
Fenway-Kenmore	32,965	29,969	2,986	1,055	28,914	4,041	34,642	27,832	6,810
Allston-Brighton	63,657	61,007	2,646	1,832	59,175	4,478	67,427	58,938	8,489
Jamaica Plain	47,767	40,120	7,628	3,015	37,105	10,643	45,411	30,471	14,940
Roxbury	71,095	16,962	54,128	4,622	12,340	58,750	62,830	4,660	58,170
No. Dorchester	32,665	28,420	4,236	1,318	27,102	5,554	31,774	22,121	9,653
So. Dorchester	74,415	66,661	7,743	977	65,684	8,720	71,914	60,765	11,149
Roslindale	39,558	38,521	1,027	368	38,153	1,395	33,211	31,327	1,884
West Roxbury	34,989	34,760	229	58	34,702	287	35,314	34,955	359
Hyde Park	34,977	34,735	242	192	34,543	434	36,150	34,497	1,653
Mattapan	45,449	26,332	19,107	1,266	25,066	20,373	47,175	10,897	36,278

[1] City population totals include neighborhood totals, Harbor Islands, and crews of vessels.

[2] Total population includes whites, all non-whites, and persons of unknown race.

Table 3

COMPARISON OF 1970 AND 1976 PERCENTAGES OF
MINORITY AND NON-MINORITY POPULATIONS IN BOSTON NEIGHBORHOODS

	1970		1976	
	Non-Minority	Minority[1]	Non-Minority	Minority[1]
All Neighborhoods	79.0%	21.0%	73.0%	27.0%
East Boston	97.3%	2.7%	98.2%	1.8%
Charlestown	98.3%	1.7%	98.5%	1.5%
South Boston	97.5%	2.5%	97.8%	2.2%
Central	89.3%	10.7%	88.1%	11.9%
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	94.9%	5.1%	95.1%	4.9%
South End	40.0%	60.0%	32.2%	67.8%
Fenway/Kenmore	87.7%	12.3%	80.3%	19.7%
Allston/Brighton	93.0%	7.0%	87.4%	12.6%
Jamaica Plain	77.7%	22.3%	67.1%	32.9%
Roxbury	17.4%	82.6%	7.4%	92.6%
No. Dorchester	83.0%	17.0%	69.6%	30.4%
So. Dorchester	88.3%	11.7%	84.5%	15.5%
Roslindale	96.5%	3.5%	94.3%	5.7%
West Roxbury	99.2%	0.8%	99.0%	1.0%
Hyde Park	98.8%	1.2%	95.4%	4.6%
Mattapan	55.2%	44.8%	23.1%	76.9%

[1] Minority includes Blacks, American Indians, Orientals, Other Specified Races, and Hispanics

Table 4

MINORITY GROUPS AS A PERCENTAGE OF NEIGHBORHOOD POPULATION
BASED ON RECENT COUNTS AND ESTIMATES

Boston Neighborhoods	Hart[1] Survey 1977	BRA[2] Estimates 1976	BRA[3] Estimates 1973	U.S.Census[4] 1970	
				All Non-white	Hispanics
Boston	25	27.0	20.5	18.1	2.8
East Boston	1	1.8	0.9	1.2	1.6
Charlestown	-	1.5	1.4	1.5	0.3
South Boston	1	2.2	1.7	1.8	0.7
Central		11.9	10.5	9.2	1.9
No. End/Downtown	2				
Chinatown	69				
Back Bay/Beacon Hill	6	4.9	4.0	3.9	1.1
South End	65	67.8	52.0	52.8	7.2
Fenway/Kenmore	25	19.7	8.6	9.1	3.1
Allston/Brighton	10	12.6	7.3	4.2	2.9
Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill	33	32.9	19.8	16.0	6.4
Roxbury	90	92.6	76.4	76.1	6.5
No. Dorchester	42	30.4	15.3	13.0	4.0
So. Dorchester	19	15.5	12.5	10.4	1.3
Roslindale	3	5.7	2.7	2.6	0.9
West Roxbury	1	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.2
Hyde Park	5	4.6	0.8	0.7	0.5
Mattapan	80	76.9	47.1	42.1	2.8

[1] Hart Survey minorities include Black, Hispanic, and Chinese. The geographic boundaries for some of the neighborhoods are slightly different from the BRA neighborhoods, to which the other estimates refer.

[2] Minority groups include all Non-whites and Hispanics.

[3] Minorities include all Non-whites, not Hispanics.

[4] A small number of persons are categorized as both Non-white and Hispanic.